



PATENT
Docket No. 150,011,0101

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Uhlenbrock et al.)
Serial No.: 10/032,357)
Confirmation No.: 4965)
Filed: December 21, 2001)
Group Art Unit: 2812
Examiner: Unknown

For: METHODS FOR PLANARIZATION OF GROUP VIII METAL-CONTAINING
SURFACES USING OXIDIZING GASES

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 2327
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Sir:

Prior to taking up the above-identified application for examination, please amend the application as follows:

In the Specification

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 10, line 13, with the following rewritten paragraph. Per 37 C.F.R. § 1.121, this paragraph is also shown in Appendix A with notations to indicate the changes made.

For various desired effects, a planarization composition can optionally and preferably include a complexing agent as described in Applicants' Assignee's copending U.S. Patent Application Serial Number 10/028,040, filed on December 21, 2001 entitled METHODS FOR PLANARIZATION OF GROUP VIII METAL-CONTAINING SURFACES USING COMPLEXING AGENTS, to aid in the planarization. Such complexing agents are chosen such that their effectivity is not destroyed by the oxidizing gas. Other additives can be included as well for desired effects. These include, but are not limited to, a surfactant (e.g., polyethylene

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